NBC NEWS - STS-41-D LANDING (9-5-1984)

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From September 5th, 1984 NBC NEWS Coverage of STS-41-D Landing. The 12th Space Shuttle Landing. Landed at 9:37 A.M E.T

STS-41-D Crew:

Commander: Henry W. Hartsfield Jr.
Pilot: Michael L. Coats
Mission Specialist 1: Richard M. Mullane
Mission Specialist 2: Steven A. Hawley
Mission Specialist 3: Judith A. Resnik
Payload Specialist 1:Charles D. Walker

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100 miles visibility which explains why that shot is so beautiful bob bazel is standing by at the scene too bob how close to touchdown is the shuttle right now oh it's real close jane we just passed overhead and it's a beautiful sight the sun just rose over the dry lake bed here and it couldn't be nicer it's just been a gorgeous morning here at the edwards air force base with me this morning is colonel warren schreiber who's been our astronaut throughout this mission of discovery and bob i see the you can see the sun glowing off the side of the space shuttle i don't know what side it is but it dawn broke minutes ago we interrupt this program to bring you an nbc news report on the landing of space shuttle discovery here is nbc news correspondent jane pauley only two minutes to landing uh at uh edwards air force base space shuttle discovery coming in from a extremely successful maiden voyage now lauren is standing by at edwards air force base with colonel lauren shriver for nbc you can see it pretty good huh well you're a pilot uh tell us what they're doing in the cockpit right now what they've done is just uh rolled out from the heading alignment circle and they're coming down the outer glide path which is a 19 degree glide path keeps the energy up for the final approach in landing they're coming down real fast aren't they much faster than an airplane the nominal speed is 285 knots and one thing we should point out that this is a glider this is not an airplane if there's some mistake they can't go back again and try again but for now everything looks absolutely perfect remembering this is the first landing that this space shuttle has made there have been two other space shuttles the columbia and the challenger who've done it successfully we see that very steep slope that they make coming in towards the runway they drop much faster than an airplane

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they drop much faster than an airplane does we have a picture of the gorgeous sunrise that we have here leveling out there and the wheels come down altitude 300 feet just uh 800 feet from the end of the runway [Music] beautiful touchdown discovery is home in a few seconds the nose wheel will come down she's home of touchdown days 56 minutes four seconds well orange driver how did that work as a landing gear it looked very nice to me uh it looked very nominal coming from the outer glide slope into the much shallower inner glide slope and then the final touchdown was just as smooth as it could be are they applying the brakes now are they going to just let it roll to us uh they're primarily uh letting it roll out there is some braking that takes place down around 130 to down to about 80 knots or so and now they've come to a complete stop now over the next excuse me bob it's just interesting to look at the ship just back from its first uh first voyage it already has two and a half million miles on it that's right it's it's interesting that uh already it's got some wear and tear you can see some of the damage that's normally caused to the tiles during the incredible heat of re-entry it still rather amazes me jane after i've seen all of these to think that this is a ship that's just come back from space and looks just like an airplane you see a beautiful shot from the helicopter well i've only seen one and it was almost as exciting to watch it glide down in that gorgeous sunrise as it is to see

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in that gorgeous sunrise as it is to see it then actually feel it go up the tiles are different on this ship i i saw a challenger uh when it was still being uh built in the hangar and all those little little pieces that made up that mosaic on the on the side does discovery look like that up close it looks pretty much like that there's a difference as you pointed out with the tiles is that parts of it are more like a carpet of heat resistant material rather than the individual tiles but it still looks the same the colors are the same it's hard to tell them apart unless you read the read the name that's printed on the side do we assume that the discovery is the more advanced or the most advanced of the fleet now of space shuttles well let me ask warren that is this discovery the state of the art now is it much better than the other two orbiters it uh represents uh at least on the outside thermal protection system uh the evolution and our materials to uh what the the latest thing will be the avionics equipment is still pretty much the same as uh what we've had previously with columbia and challenger well now that we know what we're looking at gentlemen let's pause here and re-rack the tape and put the shuttle back in the air and watch it come down again real pretty and you can see the cloud of dust on the dry lake bed at edwards with the sun shining on the side touchdown of six days 56 minutes 4 seconds nose gear down at 6 days 56 minutes 16 seconds and the first chapter of the history of this space shuttle discovery now has been written they had a tough time getting it off the ground three full starts but brought it home

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starts but brought it home a successful mission we're going to bid farewell to the east coast

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